423 cost payable over a period of thirty years. As pointed out
657 by Professor Abu-Zeid (n.d.), this law is welcomed in part
656 because the garden area to which it really applies (the garden area in al-Qasr would be the 'izba sector) is not considered "tribal territory" or lineage-owned as are the barley and pasture regions.

•653 Governmental activity growing out of the "Desert Law"
177 has been an important catalyst for social, economic and
*613 political change. All of these aspects of change had repercussions on the lineage system and the authority structure of the Bedouins. In 1959, the government entered al-Qasr with the goal of revitalizing and reorganizing the hydraulic system of the area. The revival of the Roman water system, especially the network of cisterns covering the southern region of al-Qasr, and, on the coast, the restoration of the well system and underground galleries, the drilling of new wells and the intensification of olive farming have all led to a levelling of economic differentiation between lineages and between individuals.

659 In 1956, the Egyptian government passed the Cooperative
177 Law (U.A.R. Law Number 217) establishing agricultural cooperative
474 societies throughout the country. But not until 1959 did this law have any impact on the tribes of the Western Desert.
[433] Generally, the cooperative society has served as a primary and successful agent of social change in the desert. It has

312 (literally, sky-wells, to indicate that they are dug to receive and
[172] preserve rain water). Most of these are ancient Roman pools which were
claimed either by the government or by individuals, and are put into
• [653] use again to store rain water. Recently, the government has erected a
number of dams to preserve the rain water in exceptionally good years
from flowing into the sea. All this, however, is not enough to provide
the tribal population in the area with a permanent supply of water be-
cause of the limited capacity of the cisterns and the pools and the
scarcity of rain and its erratic nature. Recent attempts have been
made to tap the underground water in some parts of the area. A large
number of wells were sunk, especially along the coast.

433 The economy of Awlad Ali is based on livestock husbandry, supple-
221 mented by occasional cultivation of barley. Owing largely to the varia-
tion in the amount of rainfall, the sources of food in the area have the
important characteristic that the place and amount of their occurrence
vary from one year to the next. Throughout most of the area, the tribal
populations are concerned predominantly with warding off shortages in
the food supply by moving with their flocks to areas where grazing lands
are available.

233 Awlad Ali keep a variety of domestic animals, the most important
of which, from the economic point of view, are sheep and goats. The
[433] economy of Awlad Ali is based on the utilization of the products of
[237] these two animals. These products are milk, meat, wool, and hides.
[262] Milk and its products constitute the basic element of the people's
[272] diet. Milk is never consumed fresh. It is always made into sour milk
272
252 (maleh), kishk (dried milk), or butter.

There was some smuggling
439 of goods across the Libyan border, but this smuggling was done on a
648 very small scale. Before the Egyptian government imposed restrictions on imports, the prices of the goods in the Libyan market were close to their prices on the Egyptian market. Except for a very few items which were not found on the Egyptian market, smuggling goods from Libya offered
• 653 a very limited financial gain to the smugglers. In recent years, this situation has changed, however. With population increase in Egypt threatening disaster, and with the cultivable land in the valley reaching its maximum productivity, the attention of the government was drawn to the fertile yet dry land of the northern strip of the Western Desert as a possible means of expanding the cultivated area. A number of projects are taking place at the present time under the land reclamation act. The most important of these projects is the Eastern Mariut project which is directed toward the irrigation of the lands of the Western Desert through the channelling of the flood waters of the Nile into a network of canals covering an extensive area of the northern strip of the Western
315 Desert. Also, recently, oil has been discovered in the area, and since
457 the end of the Second World War, the area has been a major attraction for tourists.

439 More important is the increase in traffic of smuggled goods from
[651] Libya. Custom restrictions on imported goods to Egypt have created a
[656] scarcity of American and British manufactured goods which raised their price on the Egyptian market and made smuggling a profitable activity. An opposite-direction smuggling of sheep and goats from Egypt to Libya
[315] created a great shortage in the Egyptian meat market. Before the discovery of oil in Libya, the Western Desert area supplied the Egyptian